Population Policy. The representations of women's Organisations will be given due consideration by the Group of experts while drafting the National Population Policy.

Review of National Health Policy

1669. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to review the National Health Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware of the State of India's health Report;

(d) whether Government propose to incorporate these recommendations in the National Health Policy; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) The goals and implementation of strategies set out in the National Health Policy of 1983 are being continuously reviewed.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Positive suggestions which are capable of operationalization are periodically examined and incorporated in the planning process.

Two faces of C.G.H.S.

1670. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-items published in the Indian Express dated 15th November, 1993 under the heading "Two faces of C.G.H.S."; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and what steps Government propose to take for providing medicines in all the C.G.H.S. dispensaries?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Subzi Mandi dispensary is running on the Ground Floor of a rented building in a crowded locality. The landlord has been requested to improve its maintenance, including toilets, etc. There was some shortage of medicines in recent past and efforts have been made to streamline the supply position.

As a matter of policy, disposable syringes are not supplied to the dispensaries. Disposable needles are available in the dispensary laboratory.

Instructions have been issued that there should be no tea/tiffin break in C.G.H.S. dispensaries.

1671. *[Transferred to 24th December, 1993.]*

Pesticide residues in food items

1672. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item published in the Hindustan Times dated 26.11.93 captioned "Pesticide residues in food items" from beyond permissible limits in the three main categories of food tested at the National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), Hyderabad;

(b) whether it is a fact that women are most vulnerable to pesticides according to the conclusion of the survey report conducted at the workshop organised jointly by the Consumer Forum, New Delhi, and AIWC (the All India Women's Conference); and

(c) if so, whether Government have so far launched any educational programme for correct identification of the pesticide, proper application technique, safe storage if so, details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), Hyderabad has conducted two studies on pesticides residues in food in 1989-90 and 1992-93. A total number of 238 samples were analysed to know the presence of orgnochlorine pesticide residues (DDT, BHC, Endosulfan etc.) in food viz. cereals, millets, pulses, milk, milk products, tea, coffee, fruit juices, cereal based ready-to-eat food, jam, jelly, ketchup etc. In majority of the samples the level of pesticide residues found was well within the prescribed limit.

(c) There are no epidemiological data to indicate that women are more vulnerable to pesticides.

The State Food (Health) Authorities have been advised to draw random samples of all articles of food for analysing them to know the presence of pesticide residues beyond the prescribed limits and take necessary action against the offenders as provided in the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and Rules thereunder.

Meeting of Secretary General of IRCS with Ambassador of France

1673. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Secretary General of the Indian Red Cross Society had given an appointment for a meeting with Ambassador of France in India on 7th November, 1993 for receiving a cheque of Rs. 25 lakhs towards Earthquake relief;

(b) whether it is also a fact that at the appointed time the Secretary General was not present in his office and there was no message in the office in this regard;

(c) if so, whether the Ambassador not finding the Secretary General left the premises without meeting any other officials; and

(d) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (d) On account of the unavoidable circumstances, the cheque should not be received on 7.10.93. It was received on 11.10.93.

Who's report Regarding Spread of AIDS

1674. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the report prepared by the World Health Organisation about preventing spread of AIDS;

(b) if so, the main findings thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in the light thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c). The World Health Organisation has been publishing several reports about the preventive aspects of AIDS. The reports, inter-alia, stress on the need to prevent transmission of HIV through Sexual intercourse, blood and blood products or perinatally and underscore the necessity of reducing the social and economic impacts of the epidemic. The Government have taken up in hand a National Programme to control and prevent the transmission of HIV which take into account these concerns. The majors thrust areas of the programme comprise of creation of awareness, control of sexually transmitted diseases, blood safety and rational use of blood and Surveillance and clinical management of AIDS cases.